

WING

9 NOVEMBER 1955

# RETURN OF BEN YOUSSEF TO MOROCCO

Reenthronement of Mohamed ben Youssef--

expected to occur before 18 November

anniversary of his enthronement in 1927--

opens new but probably no less tumultuous

chapter in French-Moroccan relations.

Reenthronement is complete about-face for

France. As recently as 4 October Resident

General firmly declared that Ben Youssef's

return to Morocco was excluded; yet Faure

Cabinet recognized him as Sultan on

November.

In nationalist eyes, this reversal was

result of their maneuvers, manipulations

and pressure.

Settlers are disillusioned with Paris

policy; will strive to retain privileges

position.

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III. Ben Youssef--43 years old, intelligent, able--probably will attempt to maintain independent position with no ties or commitments to any faction.

A. Sultan's relations with dominant nationalist party, Istiqlal, now close, but likely to be strained when Istiqlal does not get the recognition and favors it expects as a reward for two years of pressure for his return.